



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

- 1. Feedlot producers invited to open house Feb. 16**
- 2. Water monitoring conference to be held Feb. 16-17**
- 3. 85 counties adopt master matrix to site animal confinements**

FEEDLOT PRODUCERS INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE FEB. 16

Note to Editors: The following is a joint news release from the Iowa Beef Center, the Iowa Cattlemen's Association and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

For more information, contact:

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Dan Stipe at the Atlantic DNR field office, (515) 243-1934.**

DEDHAM – Cattlemen and other open feedlot producers in the Carroll County area are invited to an open house to address water quality issues on Feb. 16.

The meeting will be held at the Dedham Centennial Hall and Legion Building at 1:30 p.m., 302 Main Street, in Dedham.

“This meeting is designed to bring all the resources that can help producers evaluate their current operation and identify ways to improve their lots,” said John Lawrence, director of the Iowa Beef Center, Iowa State University. “From planning an open feedlot to funding improvements and maintenance tips, we should have something for everyone.”

Lawrence added that there is a lot of interest in expanding feedlots and in improving feedlot design to improve cattle performance and environmental protection. One of the sessions will feature success stories from other producers.

“The focus of the meeting is for producers to get answers to their questions, pick up ideas from other producers on successful lot designs and maintenance, and learn about resources available to help them make changes to their current operation,” said Evan Vermeer, vice president of the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association.

Producers are encouraged to attend a short opening session and registration, then rotate through any of eight different stations designed to answer their questions about stewardship, management and technical issues.

“For example, if a producer is interested in making improvements to a lot, the funding station will feature people who can answer questions about low interest loans and the federal cost share Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). By putting all the experts at one station, producers looking for funding sources can find the best fit for their needs,” said Dan Stipe, supervisor of the Atlantic DNR field office.

The Dedham Cooperative, in conjunction with the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association, Iowa State Extension and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is sponsoring the meeting.

Topics include site planning, technical advice and resources, feedlot design, operation and maintenance, funding and financing sources, producer success stories, expectations, the economic benefit of manure, and monitoring results/data.

More information is available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.com.

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WATER MONITORING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD FEB. 16-17

AMES — Iowans interested in improving the state’s water quality are invited to attend the DNR’s sixth annual Water Monitoring Conference in Ames Feb. 16 and 17. The conference will be held in the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus.

The conference will feature two keynote speakers. Elwynn Taylor, climatologist with Iowa State University Extension, will discuss how Iowa’s changing climate and erratic weather systems affect agriculture and Iowa’s waters.

Gregory Smith will discuss how Hurricane Katrina affected Louisiana ecosystems, including wetlands, forests and bird migration. He will also address using advanced technologies and field studies to investigate wetlands’ role in reducing storm impacts and sustaining fish and wildlife resources. Smith is director of the U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, La.

Concurrent sessions on Feb. 17 will address:

- Alternative Approaches to Urban Water Quality Issues
- Shallow Lakes Management

- Human Health and the Water Connection
- The Meaning of Volunteer Data
- Indicators of Water Quality
- Recreation and the Value of Water

A short ceremony Thursday evening will recognize the 2005 IOWATER volunteer award winners.

For more information, or to register online, go to <http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu>. Those interested in the conference may also contact Mary Pat Heitman at (319) 335-1576 or mheitman@igsb.uiowa.edu.

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85 COUNTIES ADOPT MASTER MATRIX TO SITE ANIMAL CONFINEMENTS

DES MOINES – The final count is in, and all but 14 Iowa counties have once again adopted the use of the master matrix, a tool for counties to evaluate the proposed sites of animal confinements.

The enrollment period ended Jan. 31 with 85 counties voting to use the master matrix during the 2006 construction season.

Counties that adopt the matrix can use it to evaluate the potential environmental and social impacts of animal confinement operations that need a construction permit prior to building.

Producers in participating counties must meet more stringent requirements than state law normally requires, based on potential impacts to water quality, air quality and the community.

The following counties did not adopt the master matrix: Clayton, Decatur, Fremont, Iowa, Lee, Lucas, Mahaska, Marshall, Plymouth, Shelby, Wapello, Warren, Washington and Woodbury.

The number of counties voting to use the master matrix since 2003 has ranged from 85 to 87, with most of the same counties participating each year. The following 10 counties have declined to use the master matrix during all four years: Clayton, Decatur, Iowa, Lee, Mahaska, Marshall, Shelby, Wapello, Warren and Washington.

Producers and citizens can view a map with participating counties on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.com/afo/files/06cermap.pdf

For more information, contact Tammie Krausman, DNR, at (515) 281-8382.